

## **Text of the Nicolls Patent**

March 14, 1666(7)\*

Original Patent. Richard Nicolls, Esqr.

Governor Generall, under his Royall Highnesse, James Duke of York & Albany and of all his Territoryes in America, To all to whom these presents shall come, sendeth Greeting:

Whereas there is a certaine Town, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, upon Long Island, Scituate, lying and being, in the Easternmost part of the said Island, commonly called and knowne by the name of East Hampton, now in the Tenure or occupaton of severall ffreeholders and Inhabitants, who having heretofore made Lawfull Purchase, of the Lands there unto belonging, have likewise manure and Improved, a considerable part thereof, and settled a competent Number of ffamilyes there upon; Now for a Confirmation, unto the said ffreeholders and Inhabitants, in their Enjoyment and Possession of the pr'misses; Know yee That by vertue of the Commission and Authority, unto me given by his Royall Highnesse, I have Ratified, Confirmed and Granted, And by these presents, do Ratify, Confirme and Graunt, unto Mr John Mulford, Justice of the Peace, Mr Thomas Backer, Thomas, Chatfield, Jeremiah Concklyne, Stephen Hedges, Thomas Osburne, Senior, and John Osburne, as Patentees, for and on the behalfe of themselves and their Associates, the ffreeholders and Inhabitants of the said Town, their Heires, Successors and Assignes, All that Tract of Land, which already hath beene, or that hereafter shall be Purchased for & on behalf of the said Towne, whether from the natives-(Indyan Proprietors), or others within the Bounds and Limitts, hereafter sett forth and exprest, (vizt)

That is to say, Their west Bounds beginning from the East Limitts of the Bounds of Soutpton (as they are now laid out, and Stak't, according to Agreement and consent) so to stretch East, to a certain Pond, commonly called the Fort Pond, which lyes within the old Bound of the Lands belonging to the Muntauke Indyan, and from thence to go on still East, to the utmost extent of the Island; On the North, they are Bounded by the Bay, and on the South by the Sea, or Maine Ocean, All which said Tract of Land, within the Bounds and Limitts before mentioned, And all, or any Plantation there-upon, from hence forth, are to belong and appertaine, to the said Town, and be within the Jurisdiction thereof; Together with all Havens, Harbor, Creekes, Quarries, woodlands, Meadows, Pastures, Marshes, waters, Lakes, Rivers, ffishing, Hawking, Hunting and ffowling, And all other Proffitts, Commodities, Emoluments and hereditaments, to the said Tract of Land and Pr'misses within the Limitts and Bounds afore mentioned described, belonging, or in any wise appertaining ;

To have and to hold, all and singular, the said Lands, hereditaments and pr'misses, with their and every of their appurtenances, and of every part & parcel thereof, to the said Patentees and their Associates, their heires, Successors and Assignes, to the proper use and behoofe of the said Patentees and their Associates, their heires, Successors, and Assignes for ever:

Moreover, I do herby Ratify, Confirm and Graunt, unto the said Patentees and their Associates, their heires, Successors & Assignes, All the Priviledges belonging to a Town within this Governmt., and that the place of their pr'sent Habitation shall continue and retaine the name of East Hampton, by weh name and Stile, it shall bee distinguished and knowne, in all Bargaines and Sales, Deeds, Records and writings;

They the said Patentees and their heires, Successors and Assignes, Rendring & Paying such Dutyes and Acknowledgemnts, as now are, or hereafter shall be Constituted and Established, by the Lawes of this Governmt, under the obedience of this Royall Highnesse, his heires & Successors, Given under my hand & Seale, at ffort James in New Yorke, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March in the 19<sup>th</sup> yeare of his majties Raigne, Anno Domini 1666.

RICHARD NICOLLS.

Recorded by the Order of the Govrrnor  
the day and year above written.

Matthias Nicclss, Secr.

(Entered Into the Records for the County of Suffolk folio 172-173).  
John Howell, Junr Clk.

***\*Note of explanation.*** Early Town records used a Calendar Year that began on April 1. Current calendar years begin in January. Thus, records between January 1 and March 31 in early Town Records were dated in the same year as the month of the December prior. Current standards would place these three months in the same year as the months following (April to December). The April-March calendar year is in all East Hampton Town records until the mid-1700's.